

Instructions for cleaning after flooding

Clean safely

- In order to protect yourself from germs in the water, mold on surfaces and the chemicals in cleaning supplies, cover your body. Wear pants, long sleeves, sturdy shoes, and rubber gloves.
- Protect your eyes, nose and lungs from cleaning materials by wearing an n95 mask, goggles.
- Never mix bleach with other cleaning supplies in the same bucket.
- Open windows and use fans to pull fumes from your work area.
- To control dust, avoid dry sweeping. Mist down areas to contain dust and collect the dust with a wet/dry shop vac.
- Always wash your hands thoroughly with soap and warm water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer when you are done cleaning.
- Never use gas operated generators indoors.
- If damage was extensive, have gas and electricity turned off prior to entering building and have professionally inspected prior to turning back on. Monitor for any gas leaks (rotten egg smell).
- People with asthma, allergies or other breathing problems may be more sensitive to mold. Talk to your medical provider if you aren't sure whether it is safe for you to clean up after a flood.

Dry flooded areas thoroughly

- Areas that stay wet or damp for more than 48 hours can grow mold.
- If carpets, clothing, paper, and other absorbent materials cannot be completely dried, it is best to throw them out.
- Run bathroom and kitchen ventilators to keep the air moving in your home.
- If there is no standing water and it is safe to use electric appliances, use fans to help dry damp areas. Fans mounted in windows and blowing out will not blow dust or mold spores about in living areas.
 - If drywall has been impacted you'll want to cut the drywall 15 to 24 inches above the visible water line.
 - Take a utility knife, score the drywall, then punch it in.

- If the insulation behind the drywall is damp, you'll need to remove that, too. Nonporous materials, such as metal and glass, can simply be cleaned thoroughly with water and detergent and sanitized with a bleach and water solution.
- Don't seal any walls up with new insulation and drywall until everything is completely dry.

Cleaning and Disinfecting Surfaces

- Bleach, soap— or any other product—cannot effectively clean up mold if you do not remove the mud and dirt first.
- Dish soap will be helpful in cleaning surfaces and will help limit mold and bacteria, but to sanitize properly BLEACH IS NECESSARY.
- To make a bleach disinfecting solution combine one cup of bleach for each gallon of water.
- Spread bleach solution on effecting areas with rag or sponge and allow to air dry.

Cleaning clothes and other fabrics

- Scrap and shake and dirt and residue from fabrics, then rinse or wash as soon as possible to help prevent the growth of mildew.
- Wash fabrics using powdered laundry detergent. These detergents are effective on clay and ground-in dirt.
- Wash garments using small loads and a full water level. Do not overload washer.
- Wash items as many times as needed. The condition of the rinse water is a good indication of whether or not the clothes are clean. If the water is dirty or cloudy, the clothes should be washed again.
- Do not put clothes in the dryer until you are satisfied with the results. The heat from the dryer can set stains, making them impossible to remove